

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

/069 W

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O R 171220Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4288

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 26952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, UR, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD IN MOSCOW: THE MYSTERY CONTINUES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 14850 (NOTAL); (B) PARIS 26745

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI OFFICIAL DOWNPLAYS BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD A COLD AS "NICE THEORY." PREVAILING IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT SOME VERY HARD NEGOTIATING HAS BEEN GOING ON IN MOSCOW. ONE POSSIBLE FRENCH CONCESSION MAY INVOLVE AGREEMENT TO JOIN GENEVA DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. LIKE MOSCOW (REF A) PARIS TOO IS BUZZING WITH RUMORS AND IS CLEARLY ILL AT EASE OVER EVIDENTLY UNUSUAL TURN OF EVENTS DURING GISCARD'S MOSCOW TRIP. SERIES OF MIDDLE LEVEL QUAI CONTACTS, BY OURSELVES AND OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES, SUGGEST THAT SO FAR AT LEAST NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION HAS TRICKLED BACK FROM GISCARD'S ENTOURAGE. WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE FRENCH SOURCE OF TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED FROM FRENCH DELEGATION MEMBER IN MOSCOW THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON COMMUNIQUE WERE "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" AND WERE LASTING "LATE INTO THE NIGHT(PROTECT).

3. THE ONLY OTHER CONCRETE ITEM OF POSSIBLE IMPORTANCE IS STRONG HINT EMBOFF RECEIVED AT QUAI OCTOBER 16 THAT, TO APPEASE SOVIETS, GISCARD MAY AFTER ALL BE WILLING TO AGREE TO FRENCH PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH US-USSR CO-CHAIRMANSHIP PRESENTS PROBLEMS. SAME POINT IS HINTED AT IN OCTOBER 17 LE MONDE WHICH REPORTS THAT FRENCH MAY BE PRESSED "TO EMERGE FROM THEIR SILENCE ON DISARMAMENT," AND TO MAKE DIPLOMATIC USE OF THEIR NUCLEAR POSITION, POSSIBLY IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, FRANCE'S POSITION ON MBFR WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

4. AS FOR THE REST, TONE WAS SET BY OCTOBER 17 LE MONDE
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ANALYSIS OF "MYSTERY AT THE KREMLIN" WHICH IS BEST OF VARIOUS SPECULATIVE PIECES TO EMERGE SO FAR. ARTICLE RUNS GAMUT OF CURRENT INDICATIONS (BREZHNEV'S HEALTH, FAILURE OF SOVIET PRESS SPOKESMAN TO TRY TO CALM THE SITUATION, MODEST TREATMENT OF GISCARD VISIT, AND

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 26952

POSSIBILITY OF URGENT POLITBUREAU MEETING ON SALT) BUT REACHES NO CONCLUSIONS. THIS MORNING'S PRESS (FIGARO OCTOBER 17) TAKES SOMEWHAT MORE HOPEFUL TURN, SPEAKING OF EMERGENCE OF A "CERTAIN DETENTE" IN THE "GLACIAL" MOSCOW ATMOSPHERE. ARTICLE EVIDENTLY REFLECTS OPTIMISTIC PRESS COMMENTS BY GISCARD AND FRENCH BRIEFERS IN MOSCOW. IT LISTS VARIOUS TECHNICAL ACCORDS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED, BUT NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDES THAT "SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES" REMAIN, WHICH GISCARD, WHO REPORTEDLY WORKED INTENSELY ON THE PLANE TO AND FROM KIEV IS TRYING TO DISPEL.

5. WE ALSO NOTE HARSH, ALMOST THREATENING TONE OF THIS MORNING'S L'HUMANITE WHICH REPORTS THAT "SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES" PREVAIL IN MOSCOW DESPITE FRENCH DELEGATION ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY. L'HUMANITE STRESSES FRENCH EMPHASIS ON CSCE IN MOSCOW AND ELYSEE'S PERSISTENCE IN RELATING GROWING FORCE DE FRAPPE TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN CONTRAST TO MOSCOW'S CONSTRUCTIVE INTEREST IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY DETENTE. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY DESCRIBING GISCARD'S THURSDAY MEETING AS "DECISIVE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS" AND POINTS OUT THAT OUTCOME WILL HAVE "A NOT INCONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE USSR."

6. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE AFP TICKER REPORTING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT THAT HE CAUGHT COLD AND THEREFORE POSTPONED HIS SECOND MEETING WITH GISCARD. QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMENTED IN TELECON WE HAVE JUST CONCLUDED THAT THAT IS A "NICE THEORY," BUT THAT IT WAS IN FACT DIPLOMATIC WAY OF EXPLAINING DIFFICULTIES OF TALKS. THIS ACCORDS WITH OUR OWN VIEW THAT, WHILE BREZHNEV COLD MAY EXPLAIN CHANGES IN SCHEDULE, IT DOES NOT ERASE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAS BEEN VERY TOUGH NEGOTIATING GOING ON IN MOSCOW, IN SPITE OF PUBLIC FRENCH DELEGATION LINE TO CONTRARY WHICH DESTRE-

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MEAU ECHOED TO MINISTER THIS MORNING.
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